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Organization of the German Border Police

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1. Within the past month the Russians have created a German border police force (Grenzpolizei), 10,000 strong, which is independent of the Central Administration of the Interior and of the Lander authorities, although it is paid and supplied by the latter. The orders creating the force were written in the MVD offices at Karlshorst and transmitted to the Schutzpolizei Section of the Central Administration of the Interior by Major Popovich and Captain Bereznev.
2. Personnel for the border police was drawn from the Schutzpolizei (ordinary police) of the major Russian Zone towns. These men were placed at the disposal of the SMA, and the German authorities have no operational control. As a result of the transfer, the large cities—especially Erfurt, Chemnitz, Halle, and Leipzig—were left almost completely bereft of policemen. A large-scale requisitioning of real estate in the border districts was effected for the housing of the border police.
3. The border police are organized in basic units (Grenzwachen) of approximately six men. One such unit is established in each of even the smallest border localities. The larger communities have several units, each commanded by a German police lieutenant. From twelve to twenty units are controlled by a Grenzkommandantur headed by a police captain. The Grenzkommandantur is always located in a town quartering Russian troops of at least company strength, and is under the direct operational control of the local Soviet commandant.
4. From six to ten of the Grenzkommandanturen are organized into a Grenzinspektion headed by a police major. This is the highest echelon of the border police; there are now five Grenzinspektionen in existence. The number is arbitrary since the spheres of the border police inspectorates do not correspond to the geographical boundaries of the Lander of the Russian Zone. Border inspectorates are supervised and controlled by Russian regimental staffs headed by Red Army colonels. Russian regiments are not, as a rule, stationed near the border. It is reported that officers of the regimental staffs in question are combat officers, and not members of the MVD.
5. The only Russian troops posted along the demarcation line are those stationed at the authorized interzonal crossing points.
6. The following points have been offered in explanation of the new border police measures:
 - a. The Russians have realized that regular troops are ineffective as border control.

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guards since this is a highly-specialized police activity.

- b. Army troops can now be concentrated in barracks, a measure permitting closer control of their political attitudes and black market activities.
- c. The considerable expense of maintaining border controls now falls to the German authorities and ostensibly reduces occupation costs.
- d. The Russians regard this as a good propaganda measure, since soldiers will be seen in fewer places.

25X1 (Comment: The organization of the German border police may also be a measure aimed at cutting down the rate of successful desertion of Russian troops.)

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